

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 036644

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PARIS NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 036644

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E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, UR

SUBJECT: US-SOVIET TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL

FOR SONNENFELDT AND HARTMAN

1. SECRETARY SIMON IS SCHEDULED TO RECEIVE THE SOVIET MEMBERS OF THE TRADE AND ECONOMIC COUNCIL AT 10:00 A.M. FEBRUARY 19. TREASURY (BENNETT) HAS REQUESTED GUIDANCE. WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR COMMENTS IN TIME FOR HIS MEETING ON THE FOLLOWING FORMULATION FOR DEALING WITH THE LEGISLATIVE PROBLEM, BASED ON THE SECRETARY'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF JANUARY 28 AND HIS GREAT DECISIONS INTERVIEW OF FEBRUARY 5:

BEGIN TEXT. THE ADMINISTRATION WILL IN SOME WEEKS BEGIN CONSULTATIONS WITH THE CONGRESS AS TO APPROPRIATE STEPS TO BE TAKEN REGARDING US-SOVIET TRADE. IN THESE CONSULTATIONS WE WILL SEEK TO MAKE SURE THAT WHEN WE DO PUT FORWARD TRADE LEGISLATION IT WILL BE ON THE BASIS OF CONSENSUS BETWEEN THE ADMINISTRATION AND THE CONGRESS. WE WILL HOPE IN THAT WAY TO AVOID THE KIND OF CONTROVERSY THAT MARKED THE TWO YEARS OF THE PREVIOUS DEBATE.

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PAGE 02 STATE 036644

RATHER TO SHOW HOW WE CAN SOLVE THE COMMON PROBLEM.

END TEXT.

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2. IN ADDITION, SECRETARY SIMON WISHES GUIDANCE ON HOW TO HANDLE THE PROBLEM OF SCHEDULING THE APRIL SESSION OF THE JOINT COMMERCIAL COMMISSION. THE SOVIETS HAD PROPOSED THE LAST TWO WEEKS IN APRIL AND SECRETARY SIMON HAD WANTED TO CONFIRM THE MEETING FOR APRIL 15-22, BUT HELD UP PENDING THE SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH GROMYKO IN GENEVA. ALKHIMOV WILL PROBABLY RAISE THIS QUESTION AND SIMON WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO GIVE AN ANSWER.

3. BOTH SIMON AND DENT HAVE ALSO ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING IN TRADE/ECONOMIC AREA IN SEC/GROMYKO CONVERSATIONS OF WHICH THEY SHOULD BE AWARE. MAW

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